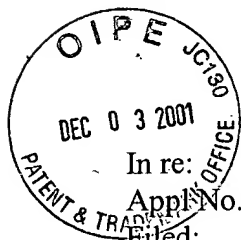


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: 09/934,177  
App's No.:  
Filed: August 21, 2001

Confirmation No.: 9094  
Group Art Unit: 1725

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR JOINING PIECES OF  
THERMOPLASTIC MATERIAL TO FORM CELLULAR BLOCKS

PATENT  
RECEIVED  
DEC 4 2001  
TC 1700  
JAW  
5-702

November 21, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

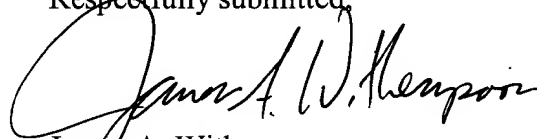
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Some of the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449 are cited herein because they were cited in the Search Report of corresponding International Application No. PCT/DE00/00070. A copy of the Search Report and the cited references are enclosed. The Examiner may also wish to consider the notations on the Search Report itself regarding the relevance of the items cited by the Search Report.

It is requested that the Examiner consider these references and officially make them of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. By submitting the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead submitting the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

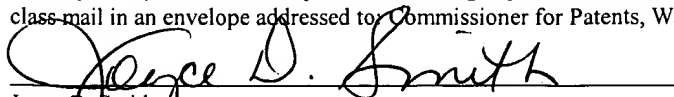
Respectfully submitted,

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on November 21, 2001.

  
Joyce D. Smith

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

**Complete if Known**

Application Number 09/934,177

Filing Date August 21, 2001

First Named Inventor

Group Art Unit 1725

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number 44223/237184

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant Of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear
	1	3,007,834		Moeller et al.	11-07-61	
	2	3,379,594		Bruder	04-23-68	
	3	3,675,522		Hull	07-11-72	
	4	4,174,987		Belvin et al.	11-20-79	
	5	4,921,744		Mitsui et al.	05-01-90	
	6	4,957,577		Huebner	09-18-90	
	7	4,992,132		Schmidlin et al.	02-12-91	
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Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number.<sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO						<b>Complete if Known</b>		
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (Use as many sheets as necessary)						Application Number	09/934,177	
						Filing Date	August 21, 2001	
						First Named Inventor		
						Group Art Unit	1725	
						Examiner Name		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number		44223/237184		
<div style="text-align: center;"><b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b></div>								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>3</sup>	U.S. Patent Document Number		Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant Of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear	
	24	5,792,295			Huebner et al.	08-11-98		
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<div style="text-align: center;"><b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b></div>								
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>5</sup> Number <sup>6</sup> Kind Code (if known) <sup>7</sup>			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>8</sup>
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	35	EP	0531251	A2	Alusuisse-Lonza Services AG	03-10-93		*
					*Abstract Only			
Examiner Signature						Date Considered		

<sup>3</sup> Unique citation designation number.